IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 139 to 141, 143 to 145 and 147 to 149 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. to 137. (Canceled)

138. (New) A printing system including a plurality of output control apparatuses and an information processing apparatus communicating with the plurality of output control apparatuses via a network,

each output control apparatus comprising:

print counting means for counting a print count value indicating a number of prints in response to delivery of a print sheet printed by the printer;

first trouble counting means for counting a first trouble count value indicating a number of print troubles of the printer;

second trouble counting means for counting a second trouble count value indicating a number of print troubles which occur until the print count value counted by said print counting means reaches a predetermined value;

determination means for determining whether or not the print count value counted by said print counting means reaches the predetermined value;

transmission control means for controlling transmission of trouble data including the second trouble count value counted by said second trouble counting means to the information processing apparatus via the network, without receiving a request for outputting the second trouble count value from the information processing apparatus, if said determination means determines that the print count value counted by said print counting means reaches the predetermined value; and

initialization means for, if said determination means determines that the print count value counted by said print counting means reaches the predetermined value, initializing the second trouble count value counted by said second trouble counting means, without accepting a manual operation by the user; and

the information processing apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving the trouble data from the plurality of output control apparatuses; and

selection means for selecting one of the plurality of output control apparatuses which has the smallest second trouble count value, based on the trouble data received by said reception means.

139. (New) A method of a printing system including a plurality of output control apparatuses communicating with an information processing apparatus via a network, the method of communicating comprising:

performing, by each output control apparatuses, the following:

a print counting step of counting a print count value indicating a number of prints in response to delivery of a print sheet printed by the printer;

a first trouble counting step of counting a first trouble count value indicating a number of print troubles of the printer;

a second trouble counting step of counting a second trouble count value indicating a number of print troubles which occur until the print count value counted in said print counting step reaches a predetermined value;

a determining step of determining whether or not the print count value counted in said print counting step reaches the predetermined value;

a transmission control step of controlling transmission of trouble data including the second trouble count value counted in said second trouble counting step to the information processing apparatus via the network, without receiving a request for outputting the second trouble count value from the information processing apparatus, if it is determined in said determination step that the print count value counted in said print counting step reaches the predetermined value; and

an initialization step of, if in said determination step it is determined that the print count value counted in said print counting step reaches the predetermined value, initializing the second trouble count value counted in said second trouble counting step, without accepting a manual operation by the user; and

performing, by the information processing apparatus, the following:

a receiving step of receiving the trouble data from the plurality of output control apparatuses; and

a selecting step of selecting one of the plurality of output control apparatuses which has the smallest second trouble count value, based on the trouble data received in said receiving step.

140. (New) A memory medium, storing computer-executable code for a method of a printing system including a plurality of output control apparatuses communicating with an information processing apparatus via a network, the method of communicating comprising:

performing, by each output control apparatus, the following:

a print counting step of counting a print count value indicating a number of prints in response to delivery of a print sheet printed by the printer;

a first trouble counting step of counting a first trouble count value indicating a number of print troubles of the printer;

a second trouble counting step of counting a second trouble count value indicating a number of print troubles which occur until the print count value counted in said print counting step reaches the predetermined value;

a determining step of determining whether or not the print count value counted in said print counting step reaches the predetermined value;

a transmission control step of controlling transmission of trouble data including the second trouble count value counted in said second trouble counting step to the information processing apparatus via the network, without receiving a request for outputting the second trouble count value from the information processing apparatus, if it is determined in said determination step that the print count value counted in said print counting step reaches the predetermined value; and

an initialization step of, if it is determined in said determination step that the print count value counted in said print counting step reaches the predetermined value, initializing the second trouble count value counted in said second trouble counting step, and

performing, by the information processing apparatus, the following:

a receiving step of receiving the trouble data from the plurality of output control apparatuses; and

a selecting step of selecting one of the plurality of output control apparatuses which has the smallest second trouble count value, based on the trouble data received in said receiving step.